

**FEE TRANSACTION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND/OR MAINTENANCE**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           A facility has been developed whereby an applicant (or his representative)  
may initiate performance of an intellectual property service such as the making of a  
maintenance fee, annuity, renewal, tax or other payments and transact the associated  
fees coincident therewith. Such a facility has several advantages including the ability  
to reduce float time. Outside the context of annuity-type payments, similar facilities  
10   may be employed in conjunction with preparation, filing and prosecution support  
tools to similarly transact fees associated with the performance of intellectual property  
services at or about the time such intellectual property services are performed. An  
intellectual property portal or hub is employed, which in some realizations is hosted  
on a public, packet switched data network and communicates with both applicants (or  
15   representatives) and associates. In some realizations, the intellectual property portal  
facilitates selection, by applicants (or representatives) of particular jurisdictions and  
associates based at least in part on fee quotations made in accordance with particulars  
of an intellectual property filing and in accordance with fee structures of the particular  
jurisdictions and foreign associates. In addition, some realizations of the intellectual  
20   property filing portal facilitate registration of associate- and jurisdiction-specific  
services and fee schedules.